

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER EDITOR BELIEVES TORIES CAN WIN QUEBEC BY RETURN
TO Diefenbaker Patriotism

ALL OTHER CONSULATE GENERAL IN CANADA VIA POUCH

1. THE TORONTO SUN'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF PETER WORTHINGTON, WRITING AS A COLUMNIST IN THE PAPER'S DECEMBER 16 EDITION UNDER THE HEADLINE "HOW TORIES CAN WIN QUEBEC," CLAIMED THAT A RETURN TO THE BASIC CANADIANISM OF Diefenbaker WOULD GIVE THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIONS A FAIR SHOT AT CAPTURING QUEBEC SUPPORT. WORTHINGTON WROTE THAT Diefenbaker WITH HIS "UNHYPHENATED CANADAIN" VISION AND HIS REFUSAL TO PATRONIZE QUEBEC GOT MORE SUPPORT IN THE 1958 ELECTION FROM QUEBEC THAN THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES HAD IN ALL OTHER ELECTIONS SINCE 1920.

2. WORTHINGTON WROTE THAT TRUDEAU "MORE THAN ANY SINGLE INDIVIDUAL IN THIS COUNTRY, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICIES THAT HAVE LED TO QUEBEC DRIFTING FROM THE CANADAIN UNIFIED CONCEPT" AND HAS "INTRODUCED POLICIES THAT HAVE CAUSED NON-FRENCH CANADAINS TO ADOPT 'TO HELL WITH THEM' ATTITUDES."
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3. HE CONTINUED "AN ARGUMENT CAN BE MADE THAT QUEBEC'S FUTURE, IN OR OUT OF CONFEDERATION, HINGES ON THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY. BUT TORIES DON'T SEEM TO SEE THIS. OR IF THEY DO, THEIR SOLUTION IS NOT A RADICAL DEPARTURE FROM TRUDEAU'S, BUT MORE OF THE SAME. THIS IS ANOTHER FORM OF THE TORY DEATH WISH.

"JOE CLARK SAYS TORIES MUST SHARE BLAME FOR QUEBEC BECAUSE OF THE TORY FAILURE TO ESTABLISH A CONVINCING PRESENCE IN THE PROVINCE. YET MR. CLARK SEEMS UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO TRY ANYTHING NEW.HE'S PRACTISING WHAT FAILED FOR TORIES IN THE PAST."

4. WORTHINGTON CLAIMED THAT SHOULD THE TORIES "PRACTICE AND PREACH UNITY." THEY MIGHT FIND A "STARTLING RESPONSE FROMINSIDE QUEBEC" -- THE MILLION PLUS ENGLISH-SPEAKING QUEBECKERS, POSSIBLY HALF A MILLION IMMIGRANT QUEBECKERS AND THE "SILENT MILLION" FRENCH QUEBECKERS "WHO ARE ALSO DEDICATE TO CANADA."

5. "TO SAY RENE LEVESQUE ISN'T REALLY A SEPARATIST AND THAT THE PARTI QUEBECOIS IS MERELY ANOTHER PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, IS SO SILLY AS TO BE SUBVERSIVE. IT'S NATIONAL SELF-DELUSION." WORTHINGTON ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE MEDIA IS ALREADY "BORING THE REST OF CANADA TO DEATH WITH AN OVERABUNDANCE OF QUEBECIANA," AND SUGGESTS THAT THE PUBLIC MAY BE "SICK" OF IN-DEPTH QUEBEC STORIES THAT WE'LL WELCOME ANYTHING TO CUT THE FLOW OF 'WHAT TO DO' REACTION."

6. RECOGNIZING THAT AN EXTREME REACTION AND PREJUDICE BY THE REST OF CANADA COULD FORCE SEPARATISM ON QUEBEC, WOTHINGTON CONCLUDED HIS COLUMN: "SEPARATISM IS ON TRAIL IN QUEBEC DURING THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. AND IF LEVESQUE FAILS -- MAYBE HIS CAUSE WILL BE DELAYED. BUT IT DEPENDS ON THE REST OF CANADA -- AND WHETHER THE TORIES CAN APPEAR A REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE TO TRUDEAU, CAPABLE OF A RE-UNIFYING A DIVIDED COUNTRY."

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